

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A system for providing power to more than one ultrasonic welding probe from a single power supply comprising:

a multiple probe controller having a first jack for connection to a first ultrasonic welding probe and a second jack for connection to a second ultrasonic welding probe;

at least one programmable logic component provided within said multiple probe controller for detecting the power status of said first ultrasonic welding probe and said second ultrasonic welding probe and further for generating a first ultrasonic welding probe status signal and a second ultrasonic welding probe status signal; and

a relay for switching said power supply between supplying power to said first port and said second port in response to said first ultrasonic welding probe status signal and said second ultrasonic welding probe status signal.

2. The system of claim 1 wherein said relay is enabled to switch power to one of said first port and said second port only when both said first ultrasonic welding probe status signal and said second ultrasonic welding probe status signal indicate that respective ones of said ultrasonic welding probes are not powered.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said multiple probe controller is adapted to provide power to said second ultrasonic welding probe after receipt of said first ultrasonic welding probe status signal indicating that said first ultrasonic welding probe has terminated operation.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said multiple probe controller is provided within an ultrasonic generator chassis.

5. The system of claim 1 wherein said multiple probe controller is provided in a separate chassis from an ultrasonic generator for generating said power.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said relay for switching said power supply is provided within said multiple probe controller.

7. A method for providing power to more than one ultrasonic welding probe comprising:

- monitoring the power status of at least a first ultrasonic welding probe and a  
5 second ultrasonic welding probe;
- generating a first ultrasonic welding probe power status signal indicating the  
power status of said first ultrasonic welding probe and a second ultrasonic welding probe  
power status signal indicating the power status of said second ultrasonic welding probe;
- providing power to said first ultrasonic welding probe such that said first  
10 ultrasonic welding probe power status signal indicates said first ultrasonic welding probe  
is powered;
- receiving a signal to switch from providing power to said first ultrasonic welding  
probe to providing power to said second ultrasonic welding probe;
- terminating the provision of power to said first ultrasonic welding probe;
- 15 monitoring said first ultrasonic welding probe power status signal; and
- initiating the provision of power to said second ultrasonic welding probe when  
said first ultrasonic welding probe power status signal indicates that said first ultrasonic  
welding probe is no longer powered.

20 8. The method of claim 7 wherein receiving a signal to switch from  
providing power to said first ultrasonic welding probe to providing power to said second  
ultrasonic welding probe comprises receiving said signal from an automation control  
system.

25 9. The method of claim 7 wherein receiving a signal to switch from  
providing power to said first ultrasonic welding probe to providing power to said second  
ultrasonic welding probe comprises receiving said signal from a manual selector input  
device.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein generating said first ultrasonic welding probe power status signal comprises generating said first ultrasonic welding probe power status signal at an ultrasound voltage sense circuit.

5 11. The method of claim 10 wherein monitoring said first ultrasonic welding probe power status signal comprises monitoring said first ultrasonic welding probe power status signal at a programmable logic device.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein monitoring said first ultrasonic welding  
10 probe power status signal at said programmable logic device comprises monitoring said power status signal using multiple probe controller state logic executed by said programmable logic device.

13. The method of claim 7 further comprising generating a clock signal for  
15 providing time-based control of said provision of said initiation of provision of power to said second ultrasonic welding probe, and further for providing time-based control of said monitoring of said first ultrasonic welding probe power status signal.

14. A system for providing power from one ultrasonic welding power supply  
20 to a plurality of ultrasonic welding probes comprising:  
a generator generating ultrasonic power;  
a selector input device having an ultrasound activation output emitting an ultrasound activation signal to request initiation of provision of power by said generator and further having a probe selection output outputting a probe selection signal; and  
25 a multiple probe controller having at least two ultrasonic welding probes attached thereto, said multiple probe controller accepting ultrasonic probe selection signals from said probe selection output of said selector input device and providing power from said generator to one of said at least two ultrasonic welding probes based on said ultrasonic welding probe selection signals.

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15. The system of claim 14 wherein said multiple probe controller is adapted to monitor power to said at least two ultrasonic welding probes and is adapted to change the provision of power from one of said at least two ultrasonic welding probes to the other of said at least two ultrasonic welding probes only when power to a powered  
5 ultrasonic welding probe has been terminated and said powered ultrasonic welding probe has proceeded through a ring-down period.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said ring-down period corresponds to a ring-down status for said powered probe during which said powered probe is ceasing  
10 operation and said ring-down status is monitored by an ultrasound voltage sense circuit of said multiple probe controller.

17. The system of claim 15 wherein said multiple probe controller is provided with a clock for synchronizing ultrasonic probe control logic within said multiple probe  
15 controller.

18. The system of claim 15 wherein said multiple probe controller controls the provision of power to said ultrasonic welding probes via relays.

20 19. The system of claim 18 wherein said multiple probe controller comprises a programmable logic device for executing ultrasonic probe control logic and forwarding relay control signals to said relays.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein said relay control signals are provided to  
25 a relay coil driver circuit, which in turn activates said relays.

21. The system of claim 20 further comprising a coil driver fault detection circuit adapted to monitor said relay coil driver circuit and to send a fault signal to said programmable logic device when a fault is detected within said relay coil driver circuit.

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